

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 7, 9 through 13, and 16 through 19 are pending in this application. The Office Action has stated that a restriction is required.

A requirement of restriction has been made with respect to claims 1 through 7, and 9 through 13. The Office has indicated that claims 1 and 16 are generic. The Action states that the application has claims directed to a patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

Species I is the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 through 3. Species II is the embodiment shown in Figs. 4 through 6. The Action requires applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable, and further requires that the applicant indicate which claims are readable upon the elected species.

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, species II comprising Figs. 4 through 6.

Figs. 1 through 3 or species I should not be subject to the restriction and should be examined with species II or Figs. 4 through 6. Applicant states that claims to be restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive. Claims to be restricted to different species must recite the mutually exclusive characteristic of such species. Figs. 1 through 3 should be included and examined with Figs. 4 through 6 because these embodiments are not mutually exclusive relative to Figs. 1 through 3.

Moreover, species I and II are to be searched by the Office in the same search class. Species I should be included and examined with species II because these embodiments are within the same field of search. Any patents, publications, or references that may relate to patentability of the claims of species I will be undoubtedly uncovered in the Office's search concerning the claims of species II. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested.

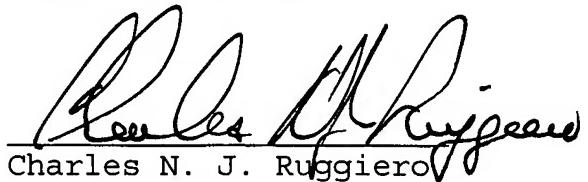
Nonetheless in order to comply with the Action, applicant hereby elects, with traverse, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.143 species II, namely Figs. 4 through 6. Claims 1 through 7, 11 through 13, and 16 read on species II. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in the future in a divisional application.

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Allowance of claims 1 through 7, 11 through 13, and 16 is earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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